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Fish habitat improvement project at Mahoning Creek Lake

[MAHONING CREEK LAKE](#) – Local volunteers and Dayton Sportsman Club members worked together for the fourth year to improve fish habitat at Mahoning Creek Lake. Twenty more wooden structures, called porcupine cribs, were built and installed in the lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Dayton Sportsman Club, have built and installed over 80 porcupine cribs to improve fish habitat.

Porcupine cribs, constructed of 2-inch rough cut lumber built into pyramids shapes, resemble porcupine quills when the corners of the structures are put together and create a woody, stump-like habitat. Micro invertebrates collect on the lumber, creating a place for aquatic insects to bore and food for young fish. Another benefit of the cribs is for fish cover from larger fish. The small openings in the structure provide necessary cover for juvenile fish to grow to maturity, thus improving fishing opportunities at the lake.

After the cribs are constructed and concrete blocks are added to the floor section of the structure, they are loaded on a boat and dropped into the lake. Officials of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Habitat Management Section have designated strategic locations for installations.

If you would like more information on the recent fish habitat improvement project, or any other activities at Mahoning Lake, visit the Park Office or call 814-257-8811. Mahoning Creek Lake is located 12 miles southeast of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and seven miles northwest of Dayton, Pennsylvania.

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Volunteers prepare to load the newly constructed porcupine cribs on the boat.